

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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P 061541Z DEC 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 296310

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, EAID, IN, PK

SUBJECT:USG PROGRAM ACTIVITIES IN KASHMIR

1. DEPARTMENT AND USIA RECENTLY REVIEWED QUESTION OF USIS
PROGRAMMING IN KASHMIR (BOTH INDIAN AND PAKISTANI) AND
CONCLUDED THAT PRESENT MODUS OPERANDI SHOULD NOT BE CHANGED.
WHILE NOT OBJECTING TO CONTINUATION OF LOW PROFILE USIS
ACTIVITIES, SUCH AS MAILING PUBLICATIONS TO KASHMIR OR
FACILITATING OTHER ACTIVITIES BY AMERICANS THERE, DEPART-
MENT DETERMINED USIS SHOULD NOT SPONSOR PROGRAM EVENTS,
SUCH AS EXHIBITS AND OTHER HIGH PROFILE ACTIVITIES, IN
KASHMIR.

2. SIMILAR QUESTION ARISES NOW IN CONNECTION WITH PROPOSED
AID LOAN TO GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN TO ASSIST IN FINANCING
LOCAL CURRENCY COSTS FOR BASIC HEALTH SERVICES (BHS, IN
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PAKISTAN'S FOUR PROVINCES AND "AZAD KASHMIR". PROJECT PROPOSAL EXPLAINS THAT, ALTHOUGH LATTER IS NOT AN INTEGRAL TERRITORIAL ENTITY OF PAKISTAN, MUCH OF ITS GENERAL REVENUE AND PROGRAM SUPPORT COHES FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN, INCLUDING PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES, AND, BEING ANXIOUS TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROJECT, "AZAD KASHMIR" IS ACCORDINGLY INCLUDED IN THE PROJECT DESIGN.

3. ALTHOUGH AID'S INPUT WOULD BE FOR GENERAL PROJECT SUPPORT AND FINANCING OF ALL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, EXCEPT FOR THAT PROVIDED BY WHO, CLOSE AID MISSION MONITORING OF THE PROJECT IS STATED TO BE CRUCIAL. IN ADDITION, A U.S. CONTRACTOR WILL PROVIDE FOUR LONG TERM TECHNICAL ADVISORS, AND OTHER SHORT TERM ADVISORS TO ASSIST IN DEVELOPING AND PARTICIPATING IN TRAINING PROGRAMS AND SEMINARS. CONSTRUCTION COSTS FOR RURAL HEALTH CENTERS AND BASIC HEALTH UNITS ARE THE LARGEST ITEMS IN THE PROJECT BUDGET. SOME OF THESE MAY BE CONSTRUCTED IN "AZAD KASHMIR".

4. DEPARTMENT RECOGNIZES THAT GOP IS COMMITTED TO ASSIST "AZAD KASHMIR" WITH GENEROUS ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AS A DISADVANTAGED AREA REQUIRING A SHARE OF THE DEVELOPMENT AID BEING MADE AVAILABLE WITHIN PAKISTAN ITSELF.

5. WE DO NOT BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT GOP COMMITMENT SHOULD LEAD TO EXTENSION TO THIS TERRITORY OF DIRECT U.S. INVOLVEMENT AS ENVISIONED ABOVE. AS IN INDIAN HELD KASHMIR, SUCH DIRECT U.S. INVOLVEMENT COULD BE INTERPRETED AS U.S. RECOGNITION OF THE STATUS OF "AZAD KASHMIR" AND/OR OF PAKISTAN'S POSITION WITH REGARD TO KASHMIR, WHEN IN FACT THE U.S. IS BOUND BY EARLIER U.N. RESOLUTIONS TO TREAT THE TERRITORY AS ONE IN DISPUTE. WHILE THE KASHMIR ISSUE HAS RECEDED SOMEWHAT IN RECENT YEARS, IT REMAINS A MAJOR BONE OF CONTENTION BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN, AS INDICATED BY THE SHARP EXCHANGE ON KASHMIR IN UNGA EARLIER THIS YEAR. FOR THESE REASONS, THE DEPARTMENT PREFERS THAT NO AGENCY OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT INADVERTENTLY CREATE A PROBLEM IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH EITHER INDIA OR PAKISTAN BY PROCEEDING WITH PROGRAM ACTIVITIES IN KASHMIR.

6. FOR ISLAMABAD. RECOGNIZING ADVANCED STATE OF BHS PRO-
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JECT DEVELOPMENT, DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE MISSION'S EARLIEST RECOMMENDATIONS ON MODIFICATIONS TO PROJECT DESIGN WHICH WOULD ENABLE AID TO AUTHORIZE LOAN FOR PAKISTAN CONSISTENT WITH FOREGOING POLICY. KISSINGER

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